

Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board 2010 Annual Report

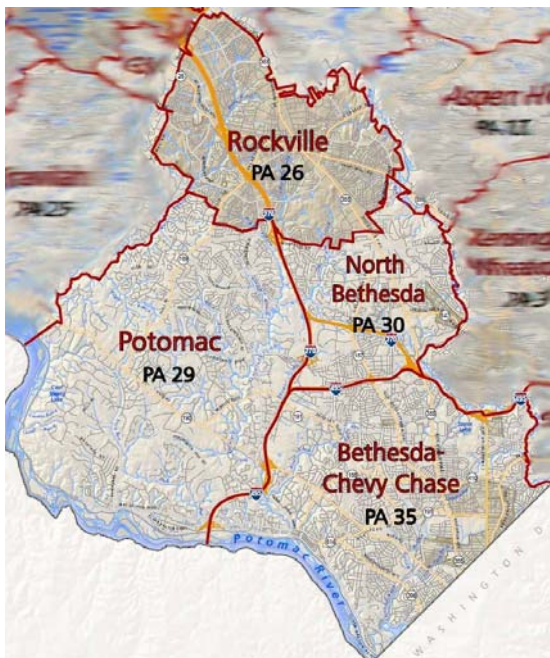


Background

The Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board advises the County Executive, County Council, and Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center Director on issues facing the community and serves as an advocate for the priorities of local residents and businesses.

Established as the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Citizens Advisory Board in April 1980, the Board's area of coverage grew in 1997 to include Potomac and North Bethesda and the name was changed to the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board. In 2008, the regional services area was further expanded to include the City of Rockville.

The Advisory Board has nineteen representatives from the residential, business, and non-profit communities located in Bethesda, Cabin John, Chevy Chase, Friendship Heights, Garrett Park, Glen Echo, North Bethesda, and Potomac, Rockville and Twinbrook. Members are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.



Dear Neighbor,

The members of the Citizens Advisory Board are delighted to represent the views and concerns of the community in Bethesda-Chevy Chase, North Bethesda-Garrett Park, Potomac and Rockville.

In 2010, the Advisory Board provided timely advice to the Council and County Executive on the budget, streetlighting in downtown Bethesda, the proposed emergency medical services transport fee, artificial turf, integrated planning for Rockville Pike, and BRAC intersection improvements.

The Citizens Advisory Board is a partner with the Regional Services Center. Together we seek to advise our local leaders about current and future community needs. To help offset dramatic cuts in the Regional Services Center, the Board explored new ways to support our own record keeping, develop programs for the community, and assist at community events.

The Board appreciates the input we receive from community groups and individuals. We look forward to continuing and expanding this work in 2011.

Sincerely,

Sue Knapp, 2010 Chair

Issues

Pedestrian Safety

Concerns
regarding
Artificial Turf

Climate Change
& Energy
Conservation

Development on
Rockville Pike

Traffic
Congestion -
Metro service
reliability

Stormwater
Management

Tree & Forest
Conservation

Budget

Crime

Economic
Development

The CAB recommended more accountability in tracking pedestrian safety concerns, more coordination among agencies that impact pedestrian safety, and the county must harness the ability of its highly capable and passionate citizens.

October 28, 2010 letter to the County Executive

The CAB recommended an investigation into concerns raised by community on the impact of artificial fields on the environment, student health, and County finances.

September 20, 2010 letter to Council President.

The CAB testified in support of investment in education, libraries and police in the operating budget. The CAB also strongly advocated against centralizing the the Regional Services Centers.

April 21, 2010 letter to the Council President.

The CAB maintained opposition to the EMS Transport Fee as proposed. The CAB urged that the fee not be used as revenue for general county government.

April 20, 2010 letter to the Council President.

The CAB supported implementing additional street lights and finishing streetscape improvements in downtown Bethesda.

February 9, 2010 letter to the Council President.

The CAB strongly recommended the County maintain Ride On at its current level of services, as proposed service changes and reductions were not in best interests of the County.

January 30, 2010 letter to the County Executive.

Advocacy

Meetings in 2010

January 27 – Operating Budget Forum. Beryl Feinberg, Manager, Office of Management and Budget gave a brief overview of the budget process. County Executive Leggett made remarks about his budget priorities and took questions and answers.

February 16 – Met in Rockville. Councilmember Phil Andrews provided welcoming remarks. There were presentations on the Circuit Court Annex by Hamid Omidvar, Department of General Services; Rockville Pike Pedestrian Safety Audit by Fred Lees, Dept. of Transportation; and the Rockville Neighborhood Resources Program by Hjarmon Cordero and Jenny Kimball, Assistant City Manager.

March 15 – Met in Glen Echo. Ken Hartman provided an overview of the budget. Bruce Johnston, Chief, Project Development, Department of Transportation, discussed the MacArthur Boulevard Bikeway Project.

April 19 – Council President Nancy Floreen, provided a briefing on the operating budget outlook. Tom Traber, Chief Financial Officer, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission also presented a powerpoint discussing proposed rate increases.

May 17 – Met in Garrett Park. State Senators Richard Madaleno and Rob Garagiola provided an update of the 2010 Legislative Session in Annapolis.

June 21 - Presentations by Councilmembers Roger Berliner and Duchy Trachtenberg on the outcome of the FY2011 Budget.

July 19 - Presentation by Reginald Jetter, Department of Permitting Services about general updates on DPS happenings.

September 20 – Presentation by Tony Alexiou, Office of Emergency Management. Diane Schwartz Jones, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer discussed White Flint Sector Plan Financing and Implementation. Ms. Schwartz Jones and Councilmember Marc Elrich discussed the draft policy area transportation policy.

October 18 – Forum on Pedestrian Safety with community leaders. Captain Russ Hamill addressed public safety issues.

November 15 - Youth Advisory Committee update given by Marianna Gutierrez and Afraah Karama. Presentation on the budget

Members in 2010

Residential

Stephen Baldwin
Richard Blumstein
Peggy Dennis
Livleen Gill
Jeffrey Hearle
Vice Chair
Fritz Hirst
Daniel Hoffman
Ilaya Hopkins
Marc Korman
Seth Maiman
Virginia Miller
Elizabeth Sandall

Business

Heather Dlhopsky
Sue Knapp
Chair
Nancy Regelin
Syed Salahuddin
Michael Fomalont
Michelle Cornwell

Non-Profit

Sally Kaplan

Meetings of the WMCCAB

Meetings of the WMCCAB are held on the third Monday of each month, except August and December. Generally, meetings are held at the B-CC Regional Services Center at 4805 Edgemoor Lane. Timely information about meetings may be found at the WMCCAB website, or at the Regional Services Center's Facebook page.

Scan these codes with a smart phone.



**Citizens Advisory
Board Meetings**

<http://tinyurl.com/6edcjux>



**B-CC
Regional Services
Center Facebook**

<http://tinyurl.com/3dopaxj>

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase
Regional Services Center**

4805 Edgemoor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland 20814-5305
bethesda.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov

Committee Reports

Quality of Life - The committee continues to be supportive of the work and priorities of the BCC Regional Services Center while also addressing issues that the community raises with regard to the quality of life in Montgomery County.

In January 2010, the committee hosted a forum entitled "Building Stronger Communities". A panel of speakers addressed issues of creating, managing and maintaining a community association. The Saturday morning event was attended by about 30 people. In October 2010, the committee hosted an Aging in Place Symposium, again with a panel of speakers. Presenters provided specific information on key issues related to aging in place. The event was attended by over 80 people.

The committee continued to support youth initiatives and collaborated with Bethesda Green for the Field of Green Internship Fair in the spring. Over 350 students attended to find various opportunities with local companies and government offices. The committee also met with the Parks Department to discuss artificial turf at MCPS high school facilities, based on input from the community.

Public Safety - In 2010, the Public Safety Committee focused on pedestrian safety and met with members of the community, DOT, and the Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee to develop recommendations for improving the County's response to community needs.

Land Use/ Transportation - This year, the Land Use and Transportation Committee monitored the ongoing Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance re-write process, BRAC transportation improvements, and the approval and implementation of the White Flint Plan. Finally, the Committee has continued to monitor development of the new draft Sector Plan for the Chevy Chase Lake area.

In the coming year, the Committee expects to continue to follow the Chevy Chase Lake Sector Plan process as well as the Zoning Ordinance re-write. The Committee expects the CAB to become involved in such issues as the County's CR Zone amendments, Bus Rapid Transit study, and the Rockville Pike Plan currently under consideration at the City of Rockville.